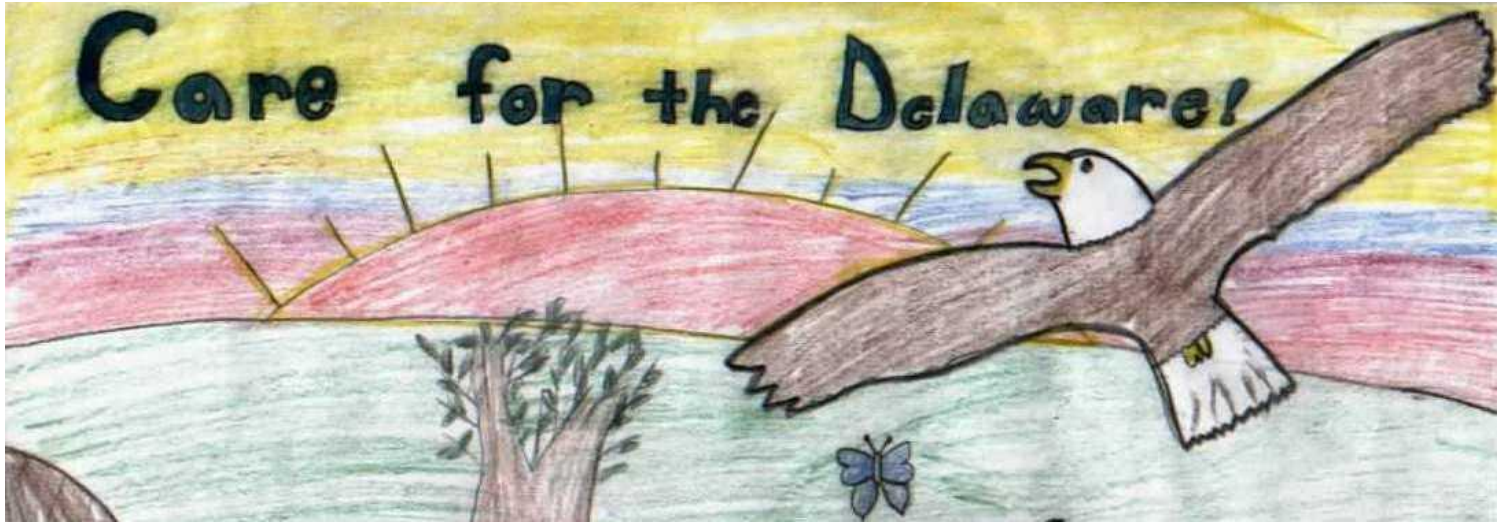




Water Snapshot Education Program



Nearly 18 million people rely on the Delaware River system for water. The main stem of the Delaware extends 330 miles from the confluence of its East and West branches near the Catskill Mountain town of Hancock, NY to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. In all, the basin comprises 13,539 square miles, draining parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Delaware. In order to monitor the water quality of the river basin, water samples must be collected and analyzed. A segment of those collection and analysis responsibilities fall to school children involved in the annual Water Snapshot program. This program was devised to allow students to get a “snapshot” of the health of the Delaware River basin and learn how they can make a difference in their own back yard.

Program



The Water Snapshot Education Program in the Upper Delaware River Valley is presented in cooperation with the Delaware River Basin Commission by Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River park rangers. The program encourages students to experience a hands-on approach to learning about the quality and health of the Delaware River and its tributaries.



The program consists of two segments. The first, a classroom based session, the Watershed Program instills in the students an awareness of the importance of the watershed of the Upper Delaware River Valley and the valuable role it plays in all of our lives. Students also become familiar with the water testing kits they will be using and learn how to perform each individual test. For the second session the lessons are learned in the field. The students collect water samples to be tested and analyzed for nitrate and phosphate levels, dissolved oxygen, pH levels, turbidity, and water temperature. The students compare results with data recorded since the inception of this program as well as with other participating schools in the Upper Delaware River Valley.

Participants

This program was developed to meet the fifth grade Science Standards for New York and Pennsylvania but can be adjusted to meet the needs of older or younger students. It is offered to any school in the Upper Delaware River watershed. Fieldwork will take place at the school if there is a stream or creek within walking distance. If not the school must arrange transportation to any of the public river accesses on the Delaware River.



Scheduling Your Program



Focusing around Earth Day, the field portion of Water Snapshot is presented during the last two weeks in April and the Watershed Program can be scheduled for anytime before that. Due to the limited days that this program is offered it is recommended that you make your reservations well in advance. Contact Biologist Jamie Myers at 570-729-7842 to schedule your school for this program.

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